

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5115

S E C R E T PARIS 29940

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, FR

SUBJECT: FRELOC CLAIM AGAINST FRANCE - DRAFT NOTE AND
PRESS GUIDANCE

REF: (A) STATE 271798 (LIMDIS); (B) STATE 272451 (EXDIS);

(C) STATE 272646 (LIMDIS); (D) STATE 273144 (LIMDIS)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: WE HAVE PREPARED DRAFT NOTE TO
FORMALIZE AGREEMENT IN SETTLEMENT OF FRELOC CLAIM. WE
WILL ALSO NEED DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE ON QS AND AS TO
BE USED WITH PRESS IN FRANCE SHOULD AGREEMENT BE
ANNOUNCED AT MARTINIQUE. END SUMMARY

2. IN LIGHT OF REFTELS, WE HAVE PREPARED DRAFT OF NOTE
TO BE SENT BY FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY TO AMBASSADOR
FORMALIZING AGREEMENT ON SETTLEMENT OF FRELOC CLAIM.
AMBASSADOR WOULD RESPOND WITH NOTE WHICH WOULD QUOTE
FRENCH NOTE AND CLOSE WITH USUAL STATEMENT TO EFFECT
THAT "THESE ARRANGEMENTS HAVE RECEIVED THE APPROVAL OF
MY GOVERNMENT". REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS/APPROVAL.
IN VIEW OF REF B, WE HAVE NOT, REPEAT NOT RAISED
SUBJECT WITH GOF. DRAFT TEXT FOLLOWS:

3. "MR. AMBASSADOR:

I HAVE THE HONOR TO REFER TO RECENT DISCUSSIONS

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BETWEEN THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE

UNITED STATES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE IN CONNECTION WITH CERTAIN QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT PURSUANT TO ITS AIDE-MEMOIRES OF MARCH 10 AND 29, 1966, WHICH LED TO THE REMOVAL OF US MILITARY PERSONNEL, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT FROM THE TERRITORY OF FRANCE.

THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE PROPOSES THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES ACCEPT THE SUM OF \$100 MILLION, PAID IN FIVE EQUAL INSTALLMENTS OF \$20 MILLION EACH, BEGINNING ON (INSERT MONTH, DAY AND YEAR), AND CONTINUING EACH (INSERT MONTH AND DAY) IN THE SUCCEEDING FOUR YEARS, IN FULL AND COMPLETE SATISFACTION OF ANY AND ALL FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE IN THE MATTER OF THE FINANCIAL CLAIMS PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES IN ITS NOTE VERBALE OF SEPTEMBER 17, 1968, AND ITS MEMORANDUM OF JANUARY 14, 1969.

THE ARRANGEMENTS SET FORTH HEREIN WILL NOT AFFECT THE ISSUES UNDER NEGOTIATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE AND ITS NATO ALLIES INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES, CONCERNING THE FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE TO TERMINATE USE BY ITS NATO ALLIES OF JOINTLY FINANCED NATO INFRASTRUCTURE AND INTERNATIONAL MILITARY HEADQUARTERS FACILITIES CONSTRUCTED IN FRANCE.

IF THE FOREGOING IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES, I HAVE THE HONOR TO PROPOSE THAT THIS LETTER, TOGETHER WITH YOUR EXCELLENCY'S REPLY TO THAT EFFECT, SHALL CONSTITUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS REGARDING THIS MATTER.

ACCEPT, EXCELLENCY, THE RENEWED ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION."

4. SHOULD FRELOC SETTLEMENT BE ANNOUNCED IN COURSE OF MARTINIQUE SUMMIT (REF D), EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING DEPARTMENT'S Q AND A PRESS GUIDANCE AS BASIS FOR OUR HANDLING OF INEVITABLE PRESS INQUIRIES IN FRANCE.

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